



PHASE II OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE BEGINS

Phase II of the Comprehensive Plan Update began in August. This section of the plan focuses on open space and recreation, transportation and circulation, Town services, and public facilities. Phase II will also include an implementation plan for recommendations made in both phases.

PUBLIC MEETING FOCUSES ON RESOURCES AND RECREATION

In late September, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee held a public meeting on natural resources, cultural resources, open space, and recreation issues. Over twenty residents attended this meeting, where they divided into two groups—Natural Resources/Open Space/Recreation and Cultural Resources—in order to discuss issues that they felt the Comprehensive Plan Update needs to address.



Each group created a priority list for its topic area. The **cultural resources group** discussed historic preservation and the importance of retaining neighborhood character. The group determined that residents would benefit from a **public education campaign regarding Wellesley's historic resources**. In addition, a **landmark bylaw** would give the Town the ability to protect individual properties that have historic significance. The group also felt that the Town should **give more consideration to the impact of construction on trees, natural features, and drainage on nearby properties**, because these elements add character and value to neighborhoods.

The **natural resources/open space/recreation group** considered topics such as Wellesley's tree policies, the trail system, Morses Pond, and recreation facilities. This group wanted the Town to

maintain the tree replacement plan, but also **provide more education on trees and the tree policy** for residents.

The group also felt that the Trails Committee should **place distance markers on the trails**, and create **paved bike paths** on some trails. Participants believed that the **Pond Restoration Master Plan** should continue to be implemented and also that the Town should **conduct a recreational needs assessment** and **pursue partnerships with local institutions to share recreation facilities**. **Building a Town aquatic facility** was also important to the group.

DRAFT GOALS FOR RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Using public input from the workshop, information gathered from research, and interviews with Town employees and committee members, Goody Clancy drafted two plan chapters that contain specific goals and recommendations regarding resources and recreation.

Natural Resources Goals

- Continue to promote awareness of the environmental damage caused by stormwater runoff and increased impervious surfaces and regulate development in order to minimize pollution impacts.
- Manage Morses Pond to avoid eutrophication and to maintain its use as a swimming destination.

Cultural Resources Goals

- Promote public awareness of Wellesley's history and the benefits of preservation and the built environment.
- Maintain the aesthetic integrity of Wellesley's neighborhoods by implementing regulations that will help protect historic properties.
- Seek non-local funding and partnerships for preservation projects.

Open Space and Recreation Goals

- Continue to expand and protect open space in Wellesley.
- Conduct a recreational needs assessment.
- Work with institutional partners to protect open space and provide additional recreation facilities.
- Pursue greater connectivity of open spaces on a local and regional level.



- Seek management options that will allow more productive use of Town-owned and private active recreation space.
- Develop a public-private partnership to construct an aquatic facility on Town land.
- Continue to develop recreational programs that will fit the needs of Wellesley's changing population.

NEXT STEPS

Draft chapters on resources and recreation have been circulated to Town employees and committee members for further comment. These chapters will be revised and posted to the Comprehensive Plan web page in late January.

Wellesley 2005-2006 Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee:

Planning Board Members

Rose Mary Donahue	Thomas Frisardi
Sue Wright	Edward Chazen
Frank DeMasi	Chris Chan

Board of Selectmen Representative

Katherine Babson

Town Meeting Representatives

Gerald C. Hume, Precinct A
Richard McGhee, Precinct B
Jacqueline Hatch, Precinct C
Joellen Toussaint, Precinct D
Henry Lysaght, Precinct E
Barbara McMahon, Precinct F
Judith Hull, Precinct G

Rick Brown, Wellesley Planning Director
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